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FUND APPROVES \$20,000 IN GRANTS

NEW YORK -- Victims of natural disasters and displacement will receive \$20,000 in emergency grants made by the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. The four late August grants are in the amount of \$5,000 each.

The Fund responded to a request from Episcopal Bishop A. Donald Davies of Dallas for emergency funds to support the work of their diocesan resettlement officer until funding for the year can be arranged. The resettlement officer is assisting the diocese to create a strong lay and clerical support system for refugee work with the hope that the program may be staffed by volunteers eventually. Immediate efforts by the resettlement officer to lay the groundwork for the system are needed, according to the bishop. Without this grant, the diocese's entire refugee program would be in jeopardy.

An emergency grant of \$5,000 was made to the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia in support of relief efforts by the council of churches of that state on behalf of some 2,000 families whose homes were destroyed or damaged during a recent flood. Fourteen counties have been declared federal disaster areas. An ecumenical network is seeking \$150,000 in order to purchase building materials and provide volunteers for the repair work.

The Fund's grant came in response to a request from Bishop Robert P. Atkinson of West Virginia who said that \$5,000 would be the Episcopal Church's share in the effort.

Two of the hardest hit areas in the Caribbean as a result of Hurricane Allen in early August were the islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Emergency grants for relief work on these two islands were made in the amount of \$5,000 each.

The request for assistance came from Bishop George N. Hunt of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island which maintains a close companion diocese relationship with the Anglican Diocese of the Windward Islands. The funds will be used for the reconstruction of damaged church buildings on the two islands.

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Bishop Hunt wrote to officials of the Presiding Bishop's Fund, "For our part, the Diocese of Rhode Island is attempting to fill requests for food, blankets, clothing and money. We have issued an appeal to our parishes for funds to assist in the recovery effort. Efforts are also under way to arrange shipment of the physical items through government transportation sources."

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